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The World's Fair

St. Louis, 1903

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LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION COMPANY,
ST. LOUIS, U. S. A.

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation.

Whereas notice has been given me by the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Commission, in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1901, entitled "An Act To provide for celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana territory by the United States by holding an international exhibition of arts, industries, manufactures and the products of the soil, mine, forest, and sea in the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri," that provision has been made for grounds and buildings for the uses provided for in the said Act of Congress:

Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, President of the United States, by virtue of the authority vested in me by said Act, do hereby declare and proclaim that such International Exhibition will be opened in the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, not later than the first day of May, nineteen hundred and three, and will be closed not later than the first day of December thereafter. And in the name of the Government and of the people of the United States, I do hereby invite all the nations of the earth to take part in the commemoration of the Purchase of the Louisiana Territory, an event of great interest to the United States and of abiding effect on their development, by appointing representatives and sending such exhibits to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition as will most fitly and fully illustrate their resources, their industries, and their progress in civilization.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this twentieth day of August, one thousand nine hundred and one, and of the Independence of the United States, the one hundred and twenty-sixth.

William McKinley

By the President:

John Hay

Secretary of State.

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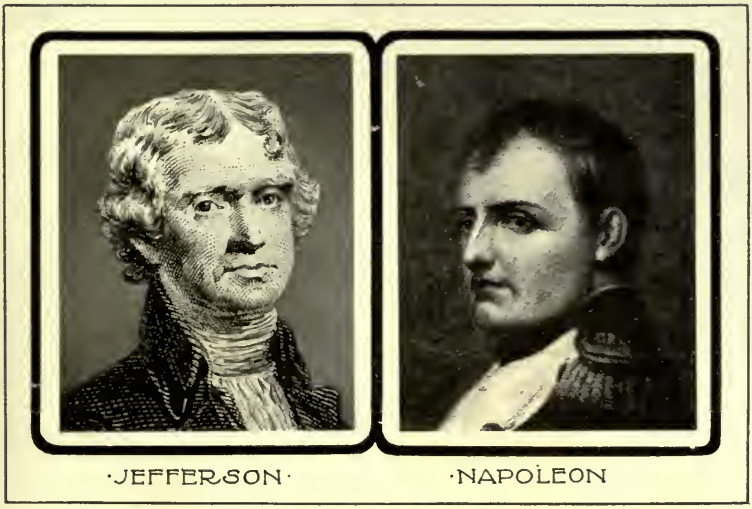

·JEFFERSON· ·NAPOLEON

THE PURCHASE.

"We have lived long, but this is the noblest work of our lives. From this day the United States take their place among powers of the first rank."

This the American Minister said to the Minister of France as they arose from the table after signing the treaty of the Louisiana Purchase.

The fulfillment of that prophecy the American Nation will celebrate with a World's Fair.

April 30, 1803, the treaty of mighty import was signed.

April 30, 1903, will bring the Centennial anniversary of that momentous event, and then will open at the chief city of the Purchase an Exposition of the Nation's growth and greatness.

With the Declaration of Independence, the Nation was born.

With the Purchase of Louisiana Territory, the Nation arrived at majority.

The man who wrote the Declaration of Independence in 1776 sat in the White House 27 years later and directed the acquisition of what became known as "Jefferson's West."

The price was $15,000,000. The money had to be borrowed. Stephen Girard, the Philadelphia philanthropist, negotiated the loan.

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition enters upon the period of preparation with $15,000,000 already provided toward the cost.

It is one of the coincidences that the amount secured in advance for the celebration of this Centennial, is exactly what was paid for

the Territory. The Territory thus acquired, stands to-day for $6,-600,000,000 of taxable wealth. It is seven times as large as Great Britain and Ireland; four times as large as Germany or France.

GENESIS OF THE FAIR.

The genesis of this coming World's Fair was an evolution.

A dozen years ago James G. Blaine, speaking of the Louisiana Purchase to the Merchants' Exchange of St. Louis, said:

"Your growth, gentlemen, is the growth of the Republic. But," he continued, "I feel I have one reproach against this Trans-Mississippi department. My reproach to every foot and to every inhabitant of the territory of Louisiana is that on its surface, which represents a third part of the United States, there is not a statue raised to the honor of Thomas Jefferson."

It was a reproach. The just ground for it was acknowledged. Sentiment for some form of celebration which should emphasize the wisdom of the Louisiana Purchase and glorify the man who made it, has been growing. The people of the Purchase discussed one form after another for the observance of this Centennial. When the thought of a World's Fair was first expressed it received little attention. When, in February, 1898, a St. Louis member of Congress introduced a bill for a World's Fair at St. Louis in 1903, it passed almost unnoticed. Ten days later the Maine was sunk. The bill slumbered.

In the summer of 1898 the Missouri Historical Society of St. Louis moved formally in the matter of the Centennial celebration. A committee of fifty men, fully representing the city's interests, was named to consider plans. The deliberation showed that the plans considered at that time were limited to a monument for Jefferson, a building for the Historical Society, or the creation of a memorial park. But none of these was satisfying. Months of consideration brought the conviction that the Centennial called for observance in the form of a World's Fair.

To the Governor of Missouri the committee went with the suggestion that the States and Territories of the Purchase be called in consultation. The Governor of Missouri formally invited the other Governors of the Purchase to send delegates to a convention at St. Louis, and they did so. The invitation set forth the purpose to be "consideration of the form the observance of the Louisiana Purchase Centennial should take."

THE TERRITORY'S DECISION.

Every State and Territory in the Purchase responded. The Louisiana Purchase Centennial convention met in St. Louis January 10th, 1899. Organization was effected with the Lieutenant-Governor of Iowa, Mr. J. C. Milliman, as President.

UNION STATION.

Delegates were present from Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The convention continued during two days. The result of it was a unanimous decision that the centennial of the Purchase should be celebrated by a World's Fair. In summing up conclusions, the delegates, without a dissenting voice, declared:

"We believe that this object can be best accomplished by an Exposition, international in its character, where the products of the labor, skill, genius, industry and enterprise of our country are brought into close comparison with those of all other countries; where the peoples of the earth can have an opportunity to behold and study the mighty impress which the influence of Liberty makes upon the progress of man, and in this great contest, where the world is the field, this wonderful valley, extending from the semi-tropical sea on the south to the semi-frozen regions of the north, will gladly submit its progress and achievements for the first century of its growth, in friendly competition with the results of many centuries in the older world."

The convention recommended that Congress be asked to participate through a suitable appropriation.

A roll call of States and Territories for an opinion on the most appropriate location for the proposed exposition, showed 69 votes for St. Louis and 8 for New Orleans.

The Missouri delegation asked to be excused and did not vote. On motion of a delegate from Louisiana, Mr. Calhoun, the selection of St. Louis was made unanimous.

The convention then proceeded to organize an Executive Committee composed of three representatives from each State and Territory within the Purchase. This Executive Committee is in existence to-day as an important branch of the organization.

The convention further declared its judgment to be that in order to insure success of the proposed international exposition on a scale worthy of its importance, it would be necessary to obtain an appropriation of $5,000,000 from the National Government, conditioned upon a subscription of $5,000,000 by the citizens of St. Louis.

The judgment of the Executive Committee was that it would be necessary "to ask and obtain the amount of $5,000,000 from the city of St. Louis additional to the $5,000,000 subscribed by citizens."

The people of St. Louis acted promptly upon the decision of the Louisiana Purchase convention and its Executive Committee. An organization of two hundred citizens was formed, with Pierre Chouteau as Chairman, with David R. Francis, as head of the Executive Committee, and with Wm. H. Thompson, as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

EADS BRIDGE.

SENTIMENT AT WASHINGTON.

In the month following the convention at St. Louis, thirty members of the Executive Committee then formed, representing all parts of the Purchase, visited Washington. The committeemen canvassed the Congressional delegations from their States. They found the responses to the suggestion of a World's Fair prompt and emphatic. Following the canvass, there was given a dinner, the hosts of which were the Executive Committee of the Louisiana Purchase convention. The guests were members of the Cabinet, Senators, Representatives and Delegates and members of the United States Supreme Court. Invitations were limited strictly to those from Purchase States and Territories. The Cabinet was represented by Secretaries Hitchcock and Wilson. Congress was represented by nearly every Senator and Representative and Delegate within the Purchase. The Supreme Court was represented by Justices Brewer and White.

The banquet assumed a most practical aspect. A series of speeches endorsing the decision of the convention and pledging personal effort on the part of the guests to carry out the recommendations was made. These addresses were characterized by marked enthusiasm.

In the course of his introductory remarks, the chairman, David R. Francis, said:

"Such an exposition as we are planning will be the scene of competition of the highest mechanism of the world, and the theater for the display of the best thought of the age. The 100th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase should be marked by the erection of a monument to Thomas Jefferson in the capital or metropolis of every State carved from the Louisiana territory.

"On behalf of St. Louis I am authorized to say—and in this statement I am sustained by substantially all of her progressive, public-spirited merchants, capitalists and laboring-men—the men who have made that city what it is—and twenty-five or more of them are seated at this board—I am authorized to say that the city of St. Louis pledges her people to raise at least $10,000,000 toward preparing for such an international exposition as will fitly commemorate the Louisiana Purchase, provided the Federal government will grant its recognition of the exposition, and will evidence its good will and support."

The addresses which followed dwelt upon the magnitude of development within the Purchase limits and upon the importance of the Purchase to the whole country. There was not an inharmonious note in that series of talks, continuing far into the night.

The Executive Committee and the St. Louis delegation returned to their homes to take up details of preliminary work. Senators and Representatives and Delegates who had pledged their co-operation, formed an organization to encourage sentiment on the subject in Congress.

SHAW'S GARDEN, ST. LOUIS.

The Missouri Legislature entered upon the necessary legislation for the enterprise.

In St. Louis the work of raising, by popular subscription, the $5,000,000 which Chairman Francis had promised at Washington, was undertaken with vigor. At a mass meeting held in the great Music Hall, $4,000,000 was pledged.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION.

The Speaker of the House, Mr. Henderson, appointed a special committee to consider World's Fair matters. In the House the initial World's Fair bill was introduced by Hon. J. R. Lane, of Iowa. In the Senate a similar bill was introduced by Hon. Francis M. Cockrell, of Missouri.

At the hearings before the special committee, appeared Governors or other officials of the Purchase States. It was asked that Congress should, through enactment, give assurance of National aid to the amount of $5,000,000. This aid was to be wholly dependent upon St. Louis raising $10,000,000.

The committee reported in favor of a vote by the House upon the proposition. Before the session ended a provision in the sundry civil bill committed Congress to this conditional aid.

Especially significant and gratifying was the absence of any partisanship or sectionalism in the action of Congress.

There was no test vote in the United States Senate. The pledge inserted in the sundry civil bill at the first session was adopted by the Senate without division. Similarly, at successive stages, the Senate acted with practical unanimity. The reports upon the bill were, so far as the Senate was concerned, unanimous.

In the House there was but one roll call which could fairly be considered a test. That occurred on the sundry civil amendment. On the part of several of the leaders of the House there was doubt as to the expediency of making a conditional appropriation; but when the vote was taken, it put that branch of Congress on record favorably by 127 ayes to 75 nays.

That vote of 127 ayes analyzed, showed 64 Republicans, 56 Democrats and all of the Populists and Silverites recorded in the affirmative.

The distribution of the support was remarkable, 37 of the 45 States contributed to the 127 votes.

Of the eight states from which no affirmative votes were given, six were among those having the smallest representation. In several cases the representatives from these states were paired for the bill.

It might be said that, except when moved by some great patriotic impulse, the House very rarely has gone on record with such general support of a measure by all sections of the country.

SCENE IN FOREST PARK.

Every Southern State cast votes for the promise of $5,000,000, conditional on the action proposed by St. Louis and Missouri.

With the leaders of the House the conclusion was that if St. Louis performed its part of the contract the appropriation should be made at the subsequent session of Congress. The contract was fulfilled.

STATE AND CITY ACT.

At the next election in Missouri, November, 1900, the Constitution of the State was amended, not only to permit the city of St. Louis to issue $5,000,000 in bonds, but also to authorize an appropriation of $1,000,000 by the State for its participation in the exposition. The voting resulted in the passage of both propositions, five-sixths of the total number being in the affirmative.

Since that election the Legislature has carried out its part, making the appropriation of $1,000,000; the municipal assembly has by ordinance authorized the issue of the $5,000,000 in bonds, and the people of St. Louis have subscribed the $5,000,000 in stock.

The stockholders have paid in a ten per cent. assessment.

In February, 1901, Secretary Gage, of the Treasury Department, was furnished with the evidence that bona fide subscriptions to the full amount stipulated by Congress had been secured and that the bonds had been legally authorized. He certified these facts to Congress.

The special committee reported the bill providing an appropriation by the Government of $5,000,000. The House passed it by more than a two-thirds majority. There ensued some days of delay, owing to the desire of the Senate to attach to the St. Louis proposition appropriations for the Buffalo and Charleston expositions, and owing to the unwillingness of the House to couple these propositions to the World's Fair at St. Louis.

On the 3rd of March, the Senate receded from its position, and the bill, as passed by the House, was accepted with only ten dissenting votes, which were cast by friends of the other proposed appropriations. This action of Congress in appropriating $5,000,000 to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, making the government a financial partner to the extent of one-third, was practically unanimous. It constituted the most notable legislation by Congress for exposition purposes.

In the Act making the appropriation the general government's close relations were clearly set forth. A National Commission was provided for. That Commission President McKinley appointed before the end of April. The nine commissioners are four former United States Senators, two former members of the House of Representatives, a former railroad manager, a former State official of New England, and a leading business man of the Southwest. All sections of the country have representation in this commission, which has already held its first meeting at St. Louis and entered upon its duties.

SCENE IN FOREST PARK.

PREPARATIONS BEGUN.

Following the action of Congress, the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company was incorporated, and the stockholders elected directors. The directors immediately organized by the election of officers and by appointment of committees.

The President of the Louisiana Purchase Company is David R. Francis, former Mayor of the city of St. Louis, former Governor of the State of Missouri, and a member of President Cleveland's Cabinet during his second Administration.

Wm. H. Thompson, the Treasurer, is the President of the National Bank of Commerce of St. Louis.

The Directors stand for all leading financial, commercial and professional interests of the city.

The second month of corporate existence brings the selection of site to a conclusion and finds a score of committees at work upon the general scope and the numberless details of the exposition.

Rapid as has been the development of this project and recent as has been the final and formal approval by the United States government, five states through their legislatures have already provided for participation.

Illinois has appropriated $250,000 and has a Commission at work.

The Legislature of Kansas has appropriated $75,000 and has provided, so far as it can pledge its successor, for $75,000 more.

Colorado has appropriated $50,000; Arkansas, $40,000, and Wisconsin, $25,000.

In other States and in the Territories preliminary steps have been taken on the same liberal scale.

From intending exhibitors in this and foreign countries the inquiries about space and other conditions far exceed in number those made at like stages of progress with preceding expositions. It is evident at this early date that with the management of the St. Louis World's Fair the question will not be how to draw exhibitors but how to keep exhibits within bounds.

Mention only of the endorsements which this World's Fair proposition has received from industrial and commercial bodies would tax patience. It will not be attempted. But the fact may be recalled that the Southern Industrial Convention which met in New Orleans went on record in strong terms supporting the movement. On that occasion it was declared that the delegates and members of the Southern Industrial Convention "urge not only upon all the states of the Louisiana Purchase, but upon all the Southern states, cities and manufacturers especially, to give to the enterprise their hearty approval, advocacy and co-operation, in order that the industrial development of the South and West may be practically placed before the world's people, and that the grand

achievement of the greatest statesman of modern times, Thomas Jefferson, be properly celebrated and his memory crowned."

SCOPE AND PROMISE.

A few days ago the question was put to Dr. W. P. Wilson, Director of the great Philadelphia Commercial Museum, "What was the chief material gain realized from the Centennial Exposition of 1876?"

His reply was, "The impetus given to manufactories in Philadelphia and vicinity. Our present development in all kinds of industries dates back to that Exposition and its effect upon the people of the community."

As the Centennial was to the Columbian, so will the Columbian stand to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

The prediction may seem rash at this stage of preparation, but it will work out.

There is evolution in expositions. The Centennial was a great thing in 1876. Everybody talked about it. Everybody, who could, visited it. Some statesman at Washington made a speech the following winter, in which he inveighed bitterly against expositions. He told how some of his constituents had sold their winter stoves in summer to get money to go to the Centennial, and were then shivering at their homes in penance for their folly!

The awakening of interest in the Centennial was sudden. It came with the opening of the gates, and increased almost to a popular craze.

For months after Chicago obtained from Congress the legislation to hold the Columbian Exposition, the proposition was treated in many parts of the country with incredulity. Six months after the action of Congress, the Government Commissioners found it expedient to affirm in resolutions, that the Columbian Exposition movement was worthy of the serious consideration of the world.

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition enters the field without handicap, with the official endorsement and financial backing of the United States Government. It begins the period of material preparation with the good will of the whole country, and with notable manifestations of interest from all parts of the world.

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition will surpass all predecessors. How? It is too soon to tell in detail, but that does not detract from the promise. An exposition grows in the brains as well as by the hands of its builders. Out of the wealth of suggestion comes as naturally as germination of seed, the evolution of a World's Fair. Shadows of some phases are being cast before. They indicate no borrowing, no copying.

Life, the human activities, it seems, will be a strong feature in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. A World's Fair of people as well as of things is contemplated.

Enduring features are engaging the attention of the Directors. A World's Fair that shall create for permanence is being planned.

Processes of manufacture, wherein actual production is shown, will be encouraged, as being of more interest to the people than still exhibits.

These and other tendencies will develop that which shall make the Louisiana Purchase Exposition characteristic, greater and better than all international exhibitions which have preceded it.

PLAN AND SCOPE OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION AT ST. LOUIS IN 1903,

Celebrating the Centennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

PLAN.

The foundation plan of the St. Louis World's Fair will be that of an exposition both national and international in its character, so that not only the people of the Louisiana Purchase Territory, but of our Union, and all the nations as well, can participate. It will be so projected and developed as to ensure the active interest of all the peoples of the world and induce their participation upon a scale without parallel in any previous exposition.

It will present in a special degree, and in the most comprehensive manner, the history, the resources, and the development of the States and Territories lying within the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase, showing what it was and what it is; what it contained and produced in 1803; what it contains and produces in 1903.

It will make it plain that the prophecy of 1803 has been more than fulfilled, and show that a veritable empire now lies between the Gulf of Mexico and Puget Sound, within the limits of the territory Jefferson obtained by the Louisiana Purchase.

It will show the history, resources and development of the possessions of the United States, including Porto Rico, Alaska, Hawaii, Samoa, Guam and the Philippines. It will embrace in a similar portrayal Cuba and any other country which may enjoy the special and exceptional protection and guardianship of the United States.

It will depart from the plan of all past expositions and make life and movement its distinguishing and marked characteristics. To this end it will aim definitely at an exhibition of man as well as the works of man; at the presentation of manufacturing industries in actual conduct as well as of the machines out of action; at the exhibition of processes as well as of completed products.

It will carefully plan in the location, the construction and arrangement of all buildings and works so as to assure the highest degree of convenience, ease and comfort for visitors who come to inspect the wonders contained within its enclosure. It will make it both easy and comfortable to get to the Exposition Grounds from every quarter of the city and from every railway terminating in St. Louis. It will in like manner make it easy and comfortable to move about the Exposition Grounds, and to pass from building to building and from point to point within every building of large area. In short, it will make the transportation of visitors the subject of special study and spare no expense in the solving of this vital problem, so that the St. Louis World's Fair may go down in history as the first great international exhibition which a visitor could inspect without enduring fatigue and hardship.

Finally, it will embody and illustrate the latest and most advanced progress in the employment of the energies of nature. It will be up-to-date in the use of all new motive forces, and be fully abreast with science in the utilization of every novel invention or discovery that has practical value.

SCOPE.

In order that the general plan outlined for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition may be fulfilled in its actual accomplishments, it will exhibit the arts and industries, the methods and processes of manufacture of the whole world; it will gather the products of the soil, mine, forest and sea from the whole earth.

It will comprehend man in his full twentieth century development, exhibiting not alone his material, but his social advancement. It will show humanity at rest as well as at work, presenting man in his hours of recreation, his exercises, his games and his sports. It will illustrate the modern home with the infinity of comforts and conveniences that have been brought into common use within the century the St. Louis World's Fair will commemorate.

It will embrace in its scope a comprehensive anthropological exhibition, constituting a congress of races and exhibiting particularly the barbarous and semi-barbarous peoples of the world as nearly as possible in their ordinary and native environments.

It will bring together the wild life of the forests, plains and waters, showing visitors a zoological collection of untrained and untamed animals as nearly as practicable with the surroundings of their native state.

The progressiveness of the Exposition will be most especially manifest in the manner and extent of its use of artificial light, both for purposes of illuminating and as a means of decoration. Electric lighting in the latest, most striking and most effective form, as well as all other new and efficient modes of illuminating, will be so liberally employed that the Exposition Grounds and Buildings will blaze

with light at n
tions of daylig....

For the development of the Exposition to the full scope outlined, it will provide for the housing and care of exhibits divided into a number of grand sections, each of which will be again divided into departments and sub-departments. The principal sections into which the Exposition will be divided will be as follows: Agriculture, Anthropology and Ethnology, Athletics and Outdoor Sports and Games, Chemical Industries, Civil Engineering, Colonization, Decoration, Furniture, etc., Diversified Industries, Education and Instruction, Electricity, Fine Arts, Food Stuffs, Forestry, History, Horticulture and Arboriculture, Liberal Arts, Machinery, Military and Naval, Mining and Metallurgy, Social Economy, Textiles, Transportation, Wild Animals.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company.

DAVID R. FRANCIS,
President.

WALTER B. STEVENS,
Secretary.

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